

Minutes

February 5, 2019

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Ray Allen

Ben Shelton

Doug Boyd

Bob Sutter

Jose Calderon

Jeffrey Turner

John William Carter, III

Scott Tyson

Anne Faircloth

Faylene Whitaker

Jim Lambeth

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Roll Call

Reading of the Ethics Reminder

N.C. State Fair – Admission Price Increase

N.C. Forest Service – Changes to the Commercial Use Program at Dupont State Recreational Forest

Veterinary Division – Initiate Rule-making Process

1. 02 NCAC 52B .0207 Importation Requirements
2. 02 NCAC 52B .0213 Importation Requirements: Cervids
3. 02 NCAC 52E .0402 Style and Location of Brands
4. 02 NCAC 52G .0303 Protection of Confidential Information

Other Business

Adjourn

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The February 5, 2019 Board of Agriculture meeting was held via conference call. The Commissioner called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and called on Chrissy Waggett for a roll call. The following Board members participated in the call: Ray Allen, Doug Boyd, Billy Carter, Jose Calderon, Jim Lambeth, Bob Sutter, Jeff Turner, Scott Tyson, and Faylene Whitaker.

Commissioner Troxler began by reading the Ethics Reminder. He then called on Kent Yelverton, State Fair Manager, to present the request to increase the admission prices for the N.C. State Fair. The proposal is an increase of \$2.00 per category for advance sale tickets; \$3.00 for adult tickets purchased at the gate; and \$2.00 for youth tickets purchased at the gate. Children ages 5 and under and seniors ages 65 and older will continue to enter free of charge. This is the first increase since 2015.

Mr. Yelverton noted that the N.C. State Fair is the 19th largest fair and this increase keeps our fair in-line with a majority of the other large fairs in the country. In addition, the N.C. State Fair is an enterprise fund, relying solely on revenue generated from the Annual State Fair and year-round events. The increase will help the fair meet challenges like rising payroll costs, higher expenses and increased maintenance costs. The increase will also help with capital improvements at the fairgrounds. There will also be a promotion during the Got to be NC Festival in May where you can advance purchase your 2019 fair tickets at the 2018 fair price. The proposed increase will have an effective date of June 1, 2019.

There was discussion amongst the Board members, Kent Yelverton and Commissioner Troxler about attendance, property work around the fairgrounds and the cost of year-round events.

Billy Carter made the MOTION to increase the admission prices at the N.C. State Fair as presented, effective June 1, 2019. The MOTION was seconded by Ray Allen. After no further discussion, the MOTION passed unanimously.

Jason Guidry, Forest Supervisor at Dupont State Recreational Forest, was then called on to present the request to revise the Commercial Use Program at the Dupont State Recreational Forest. The proposal is for a new fee schedule that allows Dupont State Recreational Forest with a reimbursement payment for staff time that is reasonable for the user and balanced with the state resources needed to effectively manage the program. The proposed fee schedule will be a flat rate of \$5.00 per person per visit and a flat rate of \$10.00 per vehicle per visit that access the interior roads of the Forest.

This change simplifies the current, confusing fee structure and will increase the overall reimbursement back to the State. Through the commercial use program, approximately 18,000 people access the Dupont State Recreational Forest. There has been stakeholder input with the NC Forest Advisory Council recommending in 2015 that the fee structure be changed to resemble other programs on public lands. In addition, the Dupont State Recreational Forest Advisory Committee also suggested a change. If approved, the change would be effective immediately.

There were some questions regarding any complaints about the current fee structure or the new proposal. According to NC Forest Service, it has been a mixed reaction.

Bob Sutter made the MOTION, which was seconded by Doug Boyd, to approve the change in the Commercial Use Program at Dupont State Recreational Forest as presented, effective immediately. The MOTION passed by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Neault, with the Veterinary Division, was asked to present the four rules up for re-adoption from the Veterinary Division. These rules have gone through the HB 74 rule review process and were classified as “necessary with substantive public interest.” With that classification, the rules are now being readopted. Three of the rules, 02 NCAC 52B .0213 Importation Requirements: Cervids; 02 NCAC 52E, Style and Location of Brand; and 02 NCAC 52G .0303, Protection of Confidential Information; are being readopted without substantive changes and will remain how they are currently in the Administrative Code.

02 NCAC 52B .0207, Importation Requirements: Swine, is being readopted, with changes, to cut down on the confusion regarding how the feral swine population is regulated. The proposal deletes mention of “sporting swine” and uses language adopted by other Departments of Agriculture that is usable and enforceable. It also adds language clarifying that feral swine cannot be transported to prevent infectious diseases. There was discussion about the term sporting swine and swine getting out of enclosures.

Billy Carter made the MOTION, which was seconded by Jose Calderon, to initiate the rule-making process on the four rules as presented by Dr. Neault. The MOTION passed by a unanimous vote.

Finished with official business, Bob Sutter and Doug Boyd wanted to mention that they heard from someone that they recently received their disaster payment from the Department and were grateful.

There being no further business to discuss, Doug Boyd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION, seconded by Bob Sutter, passed unanimously. The meeting of the N.C. Board of Agriculture adjourned at 1:58 pm.

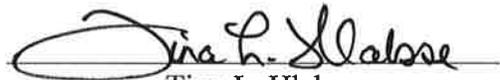
Recorded and Prepared by:

Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 15th
of May 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steven W. Troxler", written over a horizontal line.

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner of Agriculture
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tina L. Hlabse", written over a horizontal line.

Tina L. Hlabse
Secretary